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Conquer evil

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ese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor that brought the United States into World War II 60 years ago. American casualties at Pearl Harbor numbered 2,300 dead and 1,100 wounded.

Within the first hours Catholic bishops began announcing special noon or evening services in their cathedrals.

Many churches sponsored blood drives. Cardinal McCarrick set an example personally by going to Washington Hospital Center to donate blood.

The first lists of identified dead came from the passenger and crew lists of the four hijacked airplanes. In all, 266 passengers and crew members were killed, including those who died in a crash in western Pennsylvania after passengers revolted against the hijackers.

Among the earliest known dead were Hollywood producer David Angell and his wife, Lynn, aboard American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston to Los Angeles.

Even before he learned his brother and sister-in-law were on the first plane to crash into the trade center, Bishop Kenneth A. Angell of Burlington, Vt., had condemned the attack, saying, "The calculated, cold-blooded, cowardly taking of precious human lives in the name of religion or nationalism is beyond blasphemy."

Among plane passengers killed in the second tower crash, United Flight 175 from Boston to Los Angeles, was Father Francis E. Grogan, a World War II veteran and a Holy Cross priest since 1955.

More than 300 firefighters were killed in rescue efforts in New York. Franciscan Father Mychal F. Judge, a fire department chaplain, was killed by falling debris as he administered last rites to a woman who had just fallen from one of the towers and to the fireman killed by her falling body. A layman administered last rites to the chaplain, Cardinal Egan said on a television interview, saying that he assured the man that God would understand.

Among the missing was a New York City firefighter, a brother of Nora Coco, a parishioner at Greece's Our Mother of Sorrows Parish. As of Sept. 17, Nora Coco had not given up hope that her brother, Joseph G. Leavey, would be found.

"The power of prayer is a wonder. God can move mountains, God can move rubble," Coco said. "It's the waiting that's tough."

Leavey, a lieutenant at Ladder 15 Engine 4, was among the first firefighters called to the scene. His fire station is only two blocks from the World Trade Center. Co-



Reuters/CNS

American Airlines employees cry Sept. 13 at an interfaith prayer service at Boston's City Hall Plaza for the victims of Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

co said firefighters told her that her brother was en route to the WTC but got stuck in traffic "because everybody stopped to see what was going on." Leavey and two other firefighters abandoned their truck and headed on foot for the North Tower, the first building that was hit.

Leavey is married and has three children. He and Coco grew up in upper Manhattan, where he had dreamed of becoming a firefighter. He eventually gave up a higher-paying job in civil engineering to become a full-time firefighter 20 years ago.

"We are at peace with the fact that if it's

the worst-case scenario and he died, he did what he loved to do," Coco said.

Although each day brings less hope that Leavey survived the catastrophe, Coco is holding onto a card she recently bought for her brother's 46th birthday on Nov. 13.

"I hope to give it to him," she said.

Among those presumed killed with Rochester diocesan ties was Michael Canty, 30, nephew of Tom Frey, Monroe County executive from 1987-91.

Frey, a trustee of St. Michael's Parish in Rochester, said his nephew was a trader who worked on the 92nd floor of Tower

One. The plane hit in the area where he worked, Frey said, and the family assumes he was killed. Frey attended a funeral Mass for his nephew at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Schenectady Sept. 17. Mr. Canty was the son of Frey's sister, Kay Canty and her husband, Ed, of Schenectady.

In Washington, as security officials evacuated the White House, Capitol, State Department and other federal buildings, five cardinals and 31 bishops at the Administrative Committee meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops suspended business to join Cardinal McCarrick in a midday Mass at the National Shrine.

In mourning the victims of the tragedy, the gathering of bishops also prayed for "those whose hatred has become so great that they are willing to engage in crimes against our common humanity."

The bishops also appealed to Americans "to turn away from the bitter fruits of the kind of hatred which is the source of this tragedy."

"Especially," they added, "let us not engage in ethnic, religious or national stereotyping for what may be the acts of a few irrational terrorists."

Frey offered a similar note of caution. As a former politician he was pleased with the way the country rallied in the wake of the attacks, he said, but added that people should be cautious not to target people of other religions, especially Muslims, for any kind of unfounded prejudice.

"I'm very worried about us going too far and overreacting and harming our open society," he said.

As the investigation into the hijackers' backgrounds uncovered growing evidence of links to the exiled Saudi Arabian terrorist leader Osama bin Laden, who operates out of Afghanistan, thousands of Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders made similar pleas to avoid violence against Muslims or Middle Easterners.

The pope returned to the theme Sept. 16 at a Mass in Frosinone, 40 miles south-east of Rome. He offered special prayers for all Americans and asked "all not to give in to the temptation of hate and violence, but to commit themselves to the service of justice and peace."

Despite such pleas, several U.S. mosques and Islamic centers were attacked and a number of Americans of Middle Eastern and South Asian descent faced violence or threats of violence. Within the first four days after the attacks, the Council on American-Islamic Relations reported more than 200 such incidents.

Contains reporting by Mike Latona and Rob Cullivan.

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